GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4465
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
AMENDMENT IN DOWRY ACT
JAI PRAKASH;RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the existing dowry prohibition Act is being misused as a tool against the brides in-laws side;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to make necessary amendments in this law keeping in view the principal of natural justice of `Do not spare the culprit, and do not punish the innocent'; and

(d) the time by which the necessary amendments are likely to be made in the Act?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) The Dowry (Prohibition) Act, 1961 waslegislated with the specific objective of combating the menace of dowry. The Act prohibits giving or taking of dowry as a consideration for marriage. As per data compiled by the National Crimes Record Bureau, the number of cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Actare very low which shows that the provisions of the Act are not being used enough to punish offenders.

There is no reliable data or any research study or report available with the Government to show that the existing Dowry (Prohibition) Act is being misused against the bride's in-laws.

(c)&(d) The National Commission for Women (NCW) is inthe process of organizing consultations with NGOs,experts, academicians etc. to review the Dowry (Prohibition) Actand recommend amendments to the same. All aspects will be kept in mind by the Government while considering the proposals of NCW.Review of legislation is a continuous process involving consultations with various Ministries/Departments and the State Governments. It is, therefore, not practicable to lay down any time limit to implement the recommendations of the National Commission for Women on amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act.